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08/293,859 19 August 1994 (19.08.94) US(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BIOSENSE,
INC. [US/US]; 40 Ramland Road South, Orangeburg, NY
10962 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BEN-HAIM, Shlomo
[IL/IL]; 101 Yefe Nof Street, 34454 Haifa (IL). OSADCHY,
Daniel [IL/IL]; 48A Harofe Street, 34367 Haifa (IL).
PELESS, Udi [IL/IL]; P.O. Box 420, 4500 Evan Yehuda
(IL). GREENBERG, Ilan [IL/IL]; 15 Geula Street, 33198
Haifa (IL).(74) Agents: DIPPERT, William, H. et al.; Cowan, Liebowitz &
Latman, P.C., 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York,
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(57) Abstract

A locating system for determining the location and orientation of an invasive medical instrument, for example a catheter (10) or endoscope, relative to a reference frame, comprising: a plurality of field generators (18, 20, 22) which generate known, distinguishable fields, preferably continuous AC magnetic fields, in response to drive signals; a plurality of sensors (30, 32, 34) situated in the invasive medical instrument (10) proximate the distal end thereof which generate sensor signals in response to said fields; and a signal processor (26) which has an input for a plurality of signals corresponding to said drive signals and said sensor signals and which produces the three location coordinates and three orientation coordinates of a point on the invasive medical instrument.

